

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A tilt steering apparatus for a vehicle, comprising:
  - a lower steering shaft of which low end being mounted with a steering gear;
  - an upper steering shaft of which top end being mounted with a steering wheel;
  - a universal joint ~~for jointing~~ that joints a top end of the lower steering shaft with a low end of the upper steering shaft;
  - a lower column member fixed to a vehicle body ~~for supporting~~ to support the lower steering shaft to be movable;
  - an upper column member ~~for supporting~~ that supports the upper steering shaft to be movable; and
  - a tilt lock mechanism ~~for tilt locking~~ that tilt-locks the upper column member to the lower column member, wherein the tilt lock mechanism ~~is comprised of~~ comprises:
    - a fixed gear attached to the lower column member;
    - a movable gear attached to the upper column member in such a manner to be movable;
    - a female screw attached to the upper column member;
    - a feed screw bar locked to the female screw ~~for tooth-locking~~ to tooth-lock the

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movable gear to the fixed gear by pressing the movable gear; and

an operating member ~~for rotating~~ that rotates the feed screw bar.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the movable gear ~~is comprised of~~ comprises a concave groove and an opening portion whose width is smaller than that of the concave groove, ~~being and is~~ interconnected with the concave groove; and the feed screw bar ~~is comprised of~~ comprises a flange to be inserted in the concave groove, and a connecting portion ~~for connecting~~ that connects the flange to the feed screw bar while being disposed at the opening portion.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the operating member ~~is comprised of~~ comprises a tilt lever attached to the upper column member in such a manner to be movable, a driving gear attached to one end of the tilt lever, and a driven gear fixed to the feed screw bar, ~~being and~~ toothed to the driving gear.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising:  
a torsion coil spring, of which one end being attached to the upper column member and the other being attached to the tilt lever.

5. (Currently Amended) A tilt steering apparatus for vehicle, comprising:  
a lower steering shaft of which low end being mounted with a steering gear;  
an upper steering shaft of which top end being mounted with a steering wheel;  
a universal joint ~~for jointing~~ that joints a top end of the lower steering shaft with a low end of the upper steering shaft;

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a lower column member fixed to a vehicle body ~~for supporting~~ to support the lower steering shaft to be movable;

an upper column member ~~for supporting~~ that supports the upper steering shaft to be movable; and

a tilt lock mechanism ~~for tilt locking~~ that tilt-locks the upper column member to the lower column member, wherein the tilt lock mechanism is ~~comprised of~~ comprises:

a fixed gear attached to the upper column member;

a movable gear attached to the lower column member in such a manner to be movable;

a female screw attached to the lower column member;

a feed screw bar locked to the female screw ~~for tooth-locking~~ to tooth-lock the movable gear to the fixed gear by pressing the movable gear; and

an operating member ~~for rotating~~ that rotates the feed screw bar.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the movable gear is ~~comprised of~~ comprises a concave groove and an opening portion whose width is smaller than that of the concave groove, ~~being~~ and is interconnected with the concave groove; and the feed screw bar is ~~comprised of~~ comprises a flange to be inserted in the concave groove, and a connecting portion ~~for connecting~~ that connects the flange to the feed screw bar while being disposed at the opening portion.

7. (New) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the operating member

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comprises a tilt lever attached to the upper column member in such a manner to be movable, a driving gear attached to one end of the tilt lever, and a driven gear fixed to the feed screw bar, and toothed to the driving gear.

8. (New) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a torsion coil spring, of which one end being attached to the upper column member and the other being attached to the tilt lever.